

Unlocking Key Challenges Facing Arkansas' Schools

Heifer International Educational Facilities

1 World Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas

September 14, 2016

9 a.m.–3 p.m.

AGENDA

- 8:00 a.m. Onsite Registration**
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Overview of Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Southwest**
- Gary Ritter, Ph.D., Faculty Director, Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas
 - REL Southwest Staff
- Opening Plenary Session: Opportunities for Systemic Change**
- Cory Biggs, Associate Director, ForwARd Arkansas
- 9:45 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:00 a.m. Breakout Session 1**
- Prekindergarten**
- Research-to-Practice: Current Research Influencing the Field***
- Janice Keizer, Research Alliance Liaison, REL Southwest
 - Sarah Caverly, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, REL Southwest
- Rural Schools**
- Rural Professional Development: What Does the Research Literature Say and How Can It Be Implemented in Arkansas?***
- Haidee Williams, Ph.D., Research Alliance Liaison, REL Southwest
 - Erin Haynes, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, REL Southwest
- Diverse Learners**
- KIPP Delta – 15 Years: A Retrospective (Lessons Taught and Lessons Learned)***
- Scott Shirey, Executive Director, KIPP Delta Public Schools
- 11:00 a.m. BREAK**

11:15 a.m.

Breakout Session 2

Prekindergarten

Designing and Sustaining Accessible Prekindergarten Programming in Arkansas

- Tonya Williams, Director, Department of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Jody Veit-Edrington, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs, North Little Rock Public Schools
- Jenny Barber, Supervisor of Federal Programs and Preschool Education, Russellville Public Schools
- Janice Keizer, Research Alliance Liaison, REL Southwest, Facilitator

Rural Schools

Rural Teacher Recruitment and Retention: What Are Some of the Promising Practices We Can Use in Arkansas?

- Bobby Hart, Superintendent, Hope Public Schools
- Chintan Desai, KIPP Delta Public Schools
- Haidee Williams, Ph.D., Research Alliance Liaison, REL Southwest, Facilitator

Diverse Learners

Facilitating a Professional Learning Community (PLC) to Support English Learners

- Jackie Burniske, Dissemination Director, REL Southwest
- Kathleen Theodore, Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, Southeast Comprehensive Center

12:15 p.m.

Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Early Childhood Education: Investing in the Future

- William Gormley, Ph.D., Co-Director, Center for Research on Children in the United States, Georgetown University

1:30 p.m.

BREAK

- 1:45 p.m.** **Breakout Session 3**
- Prekindergarten**
- Arkansas Prekindergarten Data Inventory: Mining the Data for Greater Understanding of the Field***
- Janice Keizer, Research Alliance Liaison, REL Southwest
- Rural Schools**
- Policy Panel***
- Scott Smith, Director, Arkansas Public School Resource Center, Facilitator
- Diverse Learners**
- Policy Impacts on Special Education Identification***
- Sivan Tuchman, Doctoral Academy Fellow, University of Arkansas
- 2:45 p.m.** **Closing and Stakeholder Feedback Survey**
- Gary Ritter, Ph.D., Faculty Director, Office for Education Policy, University of Arkansas
 - REL Southwest Staff
- 3:00 p.m.** **Adjourn**